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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Knut M. Schwarz et al

Serial No.: 10/775,692

Filed: February 10, 2004

For: "Holding System for Accessory Instruments, Especially in Minimally Invasive Surgery"

Docket No.: H-1351 CIP

Group: 3632

Examiner: K. H. Chan

RESPONSE A

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Office Action dated September 20, 2005, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the first paragraph of page 4 as follows:

This is a continuation in part of co-pending USSN 09/702,039, filed October 28, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,966, issued February 17, 2004.

On page 7 of the specification, please delete "What is claimed is:".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Before the claim recitation, please insert:

What is claimed is:

Please rewrite Claim 8 as follows:

8. The assembly of Claim 8 1 wherein rupture of the body cavity wall is prevented by restricting the degree of operative motion of said mechanical arm is restricted to a cone having an included angle of no more than about 35°.

Please cancel Claims 9 and 10 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been presented for examination. Claims 1-8 and 9-10 have been made the subject of a restriction requirement. Applicant has elected to prosecute Claims 1-8 and has canceled Claims 9 and 10 without prejudice. The election was made without